

Inn from the Cold Will Seek New Pre-Transitional Family Shelter Options

Calgary – Inn from the Cold has learned that Ronald MacDonald House Board is now in negotiations with another organization for the purchase of its property at 1921- and 1925-28th Street SW in Calgary. Inn from the Cold had submitted a bid for the property in December 2006 and was planning to turn the facility into a pre-transitional family shelter for homeless families.

“Naturally we are disappointed that our bid was not successful,” says Diana Segboer, Inn from the Cold’s Executive Director. “However, we firmly believe that Calgary desperately needs a pre-transitional family shelter and will proactively seek out new property options and continue with our capital campaign to raise funds for the property and building .”

Segboer says that the organization is currently exploring new property options and will consider either purchasing an existing building or constructing its own facility. The funds raised to date will be dedicated to the new property Inn from the Cold hopes to purchase within months.

Says Segboer, “Our goal remains the same and that is to provide Calgary’s homeless families with a pre-transitional family shelter as soon as possible. This service has been lacking in our community for years and given the increase in the number of homeless families, it is urgent that we open this facility.”

A pre-transitional family shelter will provide homeless families with the time they need to build a solid foundation as they prepare to move on to transitional, affordable or market rental housing. Programs, services, and resources specifically tailored to the unique needs of each family will be provided through a mixture of in-house programming and the resources of other services throughout the Calgary community.

“Our dream is to create a place where families have the stability of the ‘same address’ for as long as they need, so that they can take those crucial first steps in rebuilding their lives,” says Segboer. She adds that providing security and stability for these families will allow them to develop a more “normal” day-to-day routine, which will reduce their stress and allow them to focus on improving their future.

Inn from the Cold is the only place where Calgary’s homeless families can go and stay together. Through its network of over 70 churches and organizations, as well as 3800 volunteers, the Inn provides temporary emergency shelter to homeless families and others in need. It also offers a number of different programs and services to help families rebuild their lives.

Inn from the Cold helped 310 homeless families in 2006. To donate to Inn from the Cold’s capital campaign, call 263-8384.